

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27-31, 34-37 and 41 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 32, 33, 38-40 and 42-46 have been canceled, and claim 41 has been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action); (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 33 and 42-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Without conceding these rejections, these claims have been canceled herein. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 32 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Soviet Union Author's Certificate 1362971 (SU '971). Additionally, claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SU '971 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,479 to Schiabel et al., and claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over SU '971 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,443,310 to Ko. Without conceding these rejections, the rejected claims have been canceled herein. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

JONSSON
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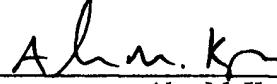
Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 27-31 and 34-37 are allowed and that claim 41 includes allowable subject matter. Claim 41 has been rewritten herein in independent form.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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